

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-61 (canceled)

62. (new) A process of neutralizing aflatoxin during tobacco processing comprising:

- (a) harvesting tobacco;
- (b) contacting the harvested tobacco with a solvent; and,
- (c) treating said solvent with a process to remediate aflatoxin;

wherein said aflatoxin is removed from said solvent.

63. (new) A process of neutralizing aflatoxin during tobacco processing as defined in claim 62 and further comprising:

said harvested tobacco is further processed into an intermediate product selected from the group consisting of: Tobacco leaves, Tobacco strips, shredded tobacco, diced tobacco, tobacco rag, tobacco plant extracts, tobacco nicotine extracts.

64. (new) A process of neutralizing aflatoxin during tobacco processing as defined in claim 62 and further comprising:

said solvent is an aqueous solution or an organic solvent.

65. (new) A process of neutralizing aflatoxin during tobacco processing as defined in claim 64 and further comprising:

said aqueous solution is selected from the group consisting of: acids, bases, oils, detergents, fatty acids, esters and emulsifiers.

66. (new) A process of neutralizing aflatoxin during tobacco processing as defined in claim 62 and further comprising:

said solvent is selected from the group consisting of: ether, alcohol, chloroform, dichloromethane, ammonia, bleaches, hydrogen peroxide, polyethyleneglycol, amines, methylamines, hydroxides of salts, formalin and ozone.

67. (new) A process of neutralizing aflatoxin during tobacco processing as defined in claim 62 and further comprising:

assaying for the presence of aflatoxin.